

Cong; New College; VII



# THE BEDFORD STUYVESANT

## COALITION on EDUCATIONAL NEEDS & SERVICES



268 ASHLAND PLACE / Room 602 / BROOKLYN, N. Y. 11217  
212/855-6731, 32

Mr. A. Vann, Chairman

October 8, 1968

Letter to the Editor  
New York Amsterdam News  
2340 Eighth Avenue  
New York, New York 10027

Dear Editor:

Your readers and the community deserve an accurate record of the progress to establish a junior college in the Bedford Stuyvesant area. It is true, as stated in your September 28th editorial, the college is yet unnamed and the president has not been chosen. However, these two facts should indict neither the community representatives nor the members of the Board of Higher Education for their, "indecision, bungling, foot-dragging, indifference or ineptitude."

To the contrary, in just seven months the Bedford Stuyvesant Coalition on Educational Needs and Services (which developed from an ad hoc committee of community organizations after the February, 1968 announcement by City University to establish a college here) and the Coalition's Negotiating Team members, (activated in May to work intensively with the Board of Higher Education) have made significant and unprecedented achievements.

City University's innovative programs for the youth attending Community College Number Seven are enumerated in the 1968 Master Plan of City University, p. 197.

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"This new community college will serve as a testing ground for many new programs in . . . the field of social technology to produce recreation leaders, child day care personnel, welfare assistants, and aides for elementary and secondary schools . . . [and] other career and transfer programs."

Since the Negotiating Team has been working as part of the Presidential Search Committee (Board of Higher Education representatives), it has achieved the following:

1. This college will have the authority to offer some bachelor degrees in specified areas to be determined by the community, although it will be a junior college. This is a unique authority.
2. The Admission Policy for this college will not exclude Blacks and Puerto Ricans (as is overwhelmingly true of other City colleges) but will facilitate their entrance.
3. Curriculum planning for this college takes special cognizance of the academic deficiencies the lower school system has created and is being designed to provide motivating approaches to help overcome these limitations.
4. Ideas of laymen from the community, and the advise, research and expertise of professional educators are being correlated to form curricula responsive to community needs.
5. Bedford Stuyvesant's college will be controlled by the community regarding all policies relevant to the total operation of the college.

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The president is not here now only because we have been immersed in the imperative to develop a meaningful and relevant institution of excellence to serve our young people long after the president to be has come and gone. But we have not been remiss here either.

Many leading educators across the country have responded to our press statement and letter of inquiry seeking a president. The sample quotes below are a testimonial to the revolutionary process our community is engaged in to create not just another college:

". . . it is the rarest kind of opportunity to become involved in the most relevant step yet taken to provide higher education opportunities for Black people."

". . . an educational institution which will be among the most significant in American education."

". . . provocative, exciting . . . to redefine and make education relevant to Black youth."

". . . your most excellently conceived junior college. . ."

". . . share your conviction . . . of an educational institution that must address itself to the rapid upgrading of human resources."

"Education for city youth should be extremely revitalized through this proposed institution."

In view of the facts, the inferences in the editorial directed at the Coalition and its Negotiating Team are unwarranted and unjust. The interests of community cohesion demand better investigation and closer communication with the people directly involved, in order to avoid

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THE BEDFORD  
STUYVESANT

COALITION on  
EDUCATIONAL  
NEEDS & SERVICES



Editor - New York Amsterdam News

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October 8, 1968

205 ASHLAND PLACE / Room 902 / BROOKLYN, N. Y. 11217

misleading half-truths that promote divisiveness. The needs of our  
community, at these critical and uncertain times, require support,  
confidence and unity!

Very truly yours,

*Albert Vann*

ALBERT VANN  
Chairman, Bedford Stuyvesant  
Coalition Negotiating Team

Letter to the Editor  
New York Amsterdam News  
2700 Eighth Avenue  
New York, New York 10027

Dear Editor:

Your readers and the community deserve an accurate record of the progress of establishing a junior college in the Bedford Stuyvesant area. It is true, as stated in your September 20th editorial, the college is yet unnamed and the President has not been chosen. However, these two facts should indict neither the community representatives nor the members of the Board of Higher Education for their, "indecision, bungling, foot-dragging, indifference or ineptitude."

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